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NEWS — SCHOOLS

Where's My School Bus?

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

September 27, 2023 . 12:00 AM — 2 min read

Sept. 27 - Parents and students were frustrated with the school bus problems that began on the first day of school this year, but none more so than Lynch School families. Equally frustrated was school superi Dr. Frank Hackett who says he's been very apologetic to those wh contacted him. Monday, he said, "was disastrous."

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Lynch School parent Heba Kazem definitely agrees with that assessment, and told the News that the buses have been inconsistent and on that rainy Monday, she waited with her fourth grader and kindergarten twins from 7:05 until 7:40 when her husband drove them across town from their home on Water Street to Parkhurst School on Samoset Road. (Lynch School is being demolished to make way for a new building and the 330 students are being taught in temporary classrooms at Parkhurst.)

"We had no communication from the school or from the bus company app," says Kazem. "I asked the neighbors who said there's been zero communication." Attempts to reach the superintendent by email or anyone at the school by phone didn't get her anywhere, she added.

Hackett sent messages out on Monday evening and he says, "Everyone has reached out to somebody," and says he'd be happy to talk to Kazem to explain the situation. What used to be two tiers of bus schedules (elementary + middle/high) has turned into three tiers with the addition of the Lynch routes, and between the traffic and closed roads, "especially Lake Street," it "kills us," Hackett says. Plus three of the drivers were new to the town and learning the routes.

The first day of school had nine buses with routes modeled in a software program, but it was clear afterwards that they needed two more, especially because McCall Middle School kids were arriving half an hour after school started. But on Monday one bus didn't show up and the GPS software that alerts parents of the bus whereabouts hasn't yet been installed on the new buses. "We had no idea the bus wasn't going to show up until I got a call from a McCall staff member telling me." North Suburban Transportation replaced the driver, and Tuesday and Wednesday seemed to go better.

Hackett says that parents have the Parent Square app which sho
notified Kazem, and has no idea why that didn't happen. Parents

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Facebook were still commenting on Wednesday that their McCall students were arriving after classes started while others reported better bus performance.

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Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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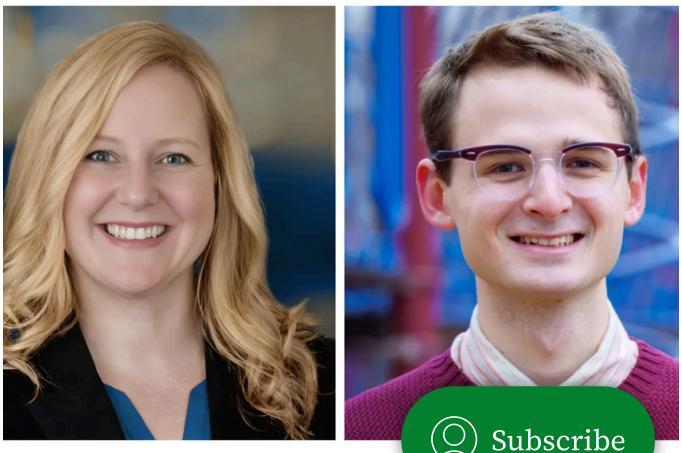

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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